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NEWS RELEASE

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Morris Jones, Chief of the Petersburg Police Department, Cassandra Burns, Commonwealth Attorney for Petersburg, and Donald Thompson, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Division, announce that Richard Madera, age 26, of Brooklyn, New York, and Calvin Marshall, age 29, of New York, New York, were sentenced today before United States District Judge Henry E. Hudson for conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and possession of firearms after having been convicted of a felony.

Madera was sentenced to a term of 240 months imprisonment and Marshall was sentenced to a term of 384 months imprisonment for their roles in the drug conspiracy.

On October 30, 2002, at a plea hearing, both Madera and Marshall admitted to their roles in a cocaine base conspiracy that they ran out of the Flagship Hotel in Petersburg, Virginia, where Marvin Pratcher of Petersburg, Virginia, was killed in a drug related dispute. Christopher Rose, age 24, of Brooklyn, New York, a co-conspirator to Madera and Marshall was responsible for Pratcher's death and is scheduled to be sentenced on January 31, 2003.

Mr. McNulty said: "Reducing violent crime is a high priority for all law enforcement agencies in this region. The sentencing of these defendants will have a positive impact for those who live and work in the community."

The case was investigated by the Petersburg Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Wallace, Sr.